Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple, Kerala

Ref: Google Gemini

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple: Comprehensive Overview

Location

The Thrikkakkara Vamana Moorthy Temple is situated at Thrikkakara (Edappally-Pukkattupady Road), in the Ernakulam district of Kochi, Kerala, India (PIN: 682021).

How to Get There

- **By Air:** Cochin International Airport (Nedumbassery) is located approximately 20 to 22 km away. Pre-paid taxis and cabs connect directly to the temple.
- **By Rail:**
    - Ernakulam Town (North) Railway Station: ~9 km
    - Ernakulam Junction (South) Railway Station: ~12.5 km
    - Aluva Railway Station: ~10 km
- **By Road:** Accessible via public KSRTC buses, private city buses, auto-rickshaws, and taxis running along the Kochi-Aluva road corridor.
- **By Metro:** Pathadipalam or Edapally Metro Stations are within 3 to 4 km.

Speciality of this Temple

- **Dedicated to Lord Vamana:** It is one of the extremely rare temples in India exclusively dedicated to Lord Vamana, the fifth avatar (incarnation) of Lord Vishnu.
- **108 Divya Desams:** It is glorified in the *Naalayira Divya Prabandham* as one of the 108 sacred Vaishnavite Divya Desams (*Thirukkatkarai*).
- **Birthplace of Onam:** The temple is celebrated as the geographical and legendary origin point of Kerala's famous festival, Onam.

History and Legends

- **The Legend of King Mahabali & Vamana:** According to Hindu mythology, the benevolent Asura King Mahabali ruled Kerala with fairness and righteousness. Desiring to test Mahabali's humility and restore celestial balance, Lord Vishnu appeared as a young Brahmin boy named Vamana. He asked Mahabali for three paces of land. Mahabali agreed, whereupon Vamana grew into a cosmic giant (*Trivikrama*), measuring the Earth with the first step and the Heavens with the second. Lacking space for the third step, Mahabali offered his own head. Vamana placed his foot on Mahabali, pushing him to *Patala* (the underworld), but granted him a boon to visit his beloved subjects annually on the day of *Thiruvonam*.
- **Historical Inscriptions:** The complex contains granite inscriptions dating back to the 10th through 13th centuries CE (Chera Kingdom period), referencing temple administration, rituals, and early records of Onam celebrations dating as far back as 861 CE.

Architecture

Built in traditional **Kerala Style Architecture** (*Thachu Shastra*):

- **Sreekovil (Sanctum Sanctorum):** Circular in design (*Vatta Sreekovil*), adorned with detailed wood carvings and copper roofing.
- **Namaskara Mandapam:** Built directly in front of the sanctum for Vedic chanting.
- **Chuttambalam & Dhwaja Stambham:** A rectangular surrounding structure with a gold-plated flagstaff (*Dhwaja Stambham*).
- **Temple Ponds & Halls:** Includes sacred temple tanks (*Kulam*) and large assembly auditoriums (*Naimishaaranyam*) used for grand community gatherings and cultural performances.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

- **Main Deity:** Lord Vamana Moorthy (installed as Lord Vishnu in his Vamana aspect, holding his divine emblems).
- **Sub-Deities (Upadevatas):**
    - Lord Shiva (located in a separate, prominent shrine within the complex)
    - Lord Ganesha
    - Sree Rama
    - Brahmarakshas
    - Goddess Bhagavati
    - Nagas (Serpent Gods)

Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Timings

- **Temple Operating Hours:**
    - Morning: 4:30 AM – 11:00 AM
    - Evening: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- **Daily Ritual Schedule:**
    - 04:30 AM – Nirmalya Darshanam
    - 05:00 AM – Abhishekam & Ganapathi Homam
    - 06:00 AM – Ethritthu Pooja
    - 08:00 AM – Usha Pooja
    - 10:30 AM – Uchha Pooja
    - 11:00 AM – Temple closes for noon
    - 05:00 PM – Reopens for Evening Darshan
    - 06:30 PM – Deeparadhana
    - 07:30 PM – Athazha Pooja
    - 08:00 PM – Athazha Sheeveli and Shrine Closing
- **Basic Pooja Charges:** Nominal rates (ranging between ₹10 to ₹200 for standard offerings like *Archana*, *Palpayasam*, *Ganapathi Homam*, and *Sahasranama Archana*). Rates are subject to official Travancore Devaswom Board counter lists.

Special Poojas and Offerings

- **Thiruvona Oottu & Onasadya:** Offering food feasts during Thiruvonam days.

- **Palpayasam & Nethra Pushpanjali:** Key offerings made to Lord Vamana for general well-being.
- **Udayastamana Pooja:** An all-day ritual conducted from morning till evening (requires advance booking with charges set by the Devaswom board).

Festivals Celebrated

- **Thrikkakara Thiruvonam Festival (Onam):** The primary 10-day annual festival celebrated during the Malayalam month of *Chingam* (August–September).
    - Starts with *Atham* flag hoisting (*Kodiyettam*).
    - Features traditional *Pakalpooram*, *Uthsava Bali*, cultural art forms (Kathakali, Chakyar Koothu), elephant processions, and the world-renowned **Thrikkakara Onasadya** (grand feast served to tens of thousands of devotees).
- **Vamana Jayanti:** Marks the birth avatar day of Lord Vamana.
- **Maha Shivaratri:** Celebrated with special rituals at the Lord Shiva shrine within the complex.

Facilities Available for Devotees

- **Dining/Prasadam:** Large dining halls capable of serving mass feasts during festival periods.
- **Auditoriums:** Spaces like *Naimishaaranyam* available for traditional Hindu weddings and socio-cultural gatherings.
- **Accommodation:** Limited direct accommodation within the temple complex itself. However, plenty of hotels, guest houses, and homestays are located nearby in Edappally, Kakkanad, and Kalamassery.

Do's and Don'ts

- **Do's:**
    - Wear traditional Hindu temple attire. Men must wear a *Dhoti* / *Mundu* (must remove shirts/vests before entering the inner sanctum). Women should wear Saris, Salwar Kameez, or traditional *Pattu Pavada*.
    - Maintain quiet decorum and follow queue management procedures.
- **Don'ts:**
    - No photography or videography inside the inner sanctum (*Nalambalam*).
    - Footwear, leather items, and electronic gadgets are strictly prohibited inside the main temple premises.
    - Do not enter the inner temple if non-vegetarian food was consumed on the day of the visit.

Nearby Temples

- Chottanikkara Bhagavathy Temple – Renowned Goddess temple located around 18 km away.
- Ernakulam Shiva Temple – Central temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, located in Marine Drive (~10 km).

- **Edappally Ganapathy Temple** – Popular shrine dedicated to Lord Ganesha (~4 km).

Nearby Hotels

- **Kochi Marriott Hotel:** Luxury hotel situated near LuLu Mall (~2.5 km).
- **Courtyard by Marriott Kochi Infopark:** Premium stay options near Kakkanad (~4.8 km).
- **Hotel Hill View & Sophiya Suites:** Mid-range accommodations located along Civil Lane Road (~2 km).

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Kerala Museum (Edappally, ~2.5 km): Cultural museum showcasing statues, dioramas, and Kerala's historical lineage.
- LuLu International Shopping Mall (Edappally, ~3 km): One of India's largest shopping malls featuring retail, dining, and entertainment.
- Hill Palace (Tripunithura, ~12 km): Heritage museum and former administrative palace of the Kingdom of Cochin.
- Fort Kochi (~20 km): Coastal heritage area featuring colonial architecture and Chinese fishing nets.

Donation Info and Contact Details

- **Administrative Body:** Managed by the **Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB)**.
- **Contact Number:** +91-484-2367334
- **Donations:** Devotees can offer voluntary donations for temple upkeep, *Annadhanam* (free food distribution), or perform specific *Vazhipadu* directly at the official Devaswom booking counters located at the temple entrance.

***

Ref: Google

The 10-day Onam festival schedule traces the progression of the festival from the initial flag hoisting to the grand grand finale of *Thiruvonam*.

The 10-Day Festival Sequence

Day	Name	Core Significance & Activities
Day 1	**Atham**	Marks the official beginning of Onam festivities. Flag hoisting (*Kodiyettam*) takes place at the Thrikkakara Temple, followed by the grand *Tripunithura*

		Athachamayam parade. The first layer of the floral carpet (*Pookalam*) is laid out using single-color yellow flowers.
Day 2	**Chithira**	Deep cleaning of homes begins. A second layer of yellow and orange petals is added to the expanding *Pookalam*.
Day 3	**Chodhi**	Festival shopping reaches full swing for *Onakkodi* (new traditional attire: *Mundu*, *Kasavu Saris*). A third layer of multicolored flowers is added to the floral pattern.
Day 4	**Vishakham**	Considered one of the most auspicious days. Kitchen preparations begin, and markets flood with fresh produce for the upcoming grand feast.
Day 5	**Anizham**	Traditionally marks the inauguration of the famous *Vallam Kali* (Snake Boat Races) along the Pamba River, notably at Aranmula.
Day 6	**Thrikketta**	Families start visiting ancestral homes (*Tharavadu*) and exchange gifts. Public cultural events and traditional games like *Ona-Thallu* begin across towns.
Day 7	**Moolam**	*Onasadya* (feast) distribution begins at many temples and community centers. Traditional folk performances like *Kaikottikali* and *Thumbi Thullal* take place.
Day 8	**Pooradam**	*Onathappan*—pyramidal clay idols representing Lord

		Vamana and King Mahabali—are consecrated and placed at the center of the *Pookalam*.
Day 9	**Uthradam** *(First Onam)*	The eve of the main day. Known as *Uthrada Pachachil*, it is the final rush day to buy vegetables, groceries, and provisions. Mahabali is believed to enter Kerala on this evening.
Day 10	**Thiruvonam** *(Second/Main Onam)*	**The culmination of the festival.** Homes are decorated with rice-flour batter at entrances. Families gather for the **Onasadya** (26-item traditional vegetarian feast on banana leaves). Mass feasts and special poojas occur at Thrikkakara Temple.

Post-Thiruvonam Festivities

- **Avittam (Third Onam):** Preparations begin for the ritual immersion of the clay *Onathappan* idols into water bodies.
- **Chathayam (Fourth Onam):** Marks the official close of state Onam week celebrations, featured by **Pulikali** (Tiger Dance performances, primarily in Thrissur) and the historic **Aranmula Uthrattathi Boat Race**.

****

Here is the history and the legendary story associated with the Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple.

The Mythological Legend

The temple is deeply tied to the origin story of Kerala's national festival, **Onam**, and the story of the cosmic encounter between the demon King Mahabali and Lord Vishnu.

- **The Reign of Mahabali:** In ancient times, the Asura (demon) King Mahabali ruled Kerala. He was a generous, just, and highly powerful ruler. Under his reign, everyone was equal, and honesty prevailed. There was no poverty, crime, or sorrow.

- **The Jealousy of the Gods:** Mahabali's growing power and popularity worried Indra, the king of the gods (Devas). Fearing they would lose control over the heavens, the gods appealed to Lord Vishnu for help.
- **The Vamana Avatar:** Lord Vishnu incarnated as **Vamana**, a short Brahmin boy, to test the king. He approached Mahabali during a sacrificial ritual and asked for a simple gift: as much land as he could measure in three paces.
- **The Three Paces:** Despite warnings from his guru Shukracharya that the boy was Vishnu in disguise, the righteous Mahabali granted the wish. Vamana then grew to cosmic proportions (*Trivikrama*).
    - With his **first step**, he covered the entire earth.
    - With his **second step**, he claimed the heavens.
    - Realising there was no space left for the final step, Mahabali humbly offered his **own head** for the third step.
- **The Blessing and Onam:** Vamana placed his foot on Mahabali's head and pushed him down into *Patala* (the underworld). Impressed by the king's ultimate sacrifice and devotion, Vishnu granted him a boon: Mahabali was allowed to return to his beloved kingdom once a year to visit his people. **Thrikkakara is believed to be the exact site where this legendary event took place.** The annual ten-day Onam festival celebrates the return of King Mahabali.

Historical Evolution

The name "Thrikkakara" is a localized evolution of *Thiru-kaal-kara*, which translates to **"The land of the holy foot"**, referencing the spot where Vamana placed his foot.

- **Ancient Roots:** The temple is over two millennia old. It is prominently featured in the *Naalayira Divya Prabandham*, a collection of ancient Tamil hymns composed by the Vaishnava Alvars between the 6th and 9th centuries CE.
- **Seat of Power:** During the Chera dynasty's rule, Thrikkakara served as a major regional capital. Historical stone inscriptions found on the temple walls, dating back to the 10th to 13th centuries, document significant political decisions, land grants, and details of how the historic Onam festival was managed by the kings of Kerala.
- **Architecture:** The temple complex showcases traditional Kerala-style architecture, featuring a circular sanctum sanctorum (*Sreekovil*) and an surrounding pillared hall. Uniquely, the complex houses two main temples: the larger one dedicated to Lord Vamana and an adjacent, equally historic shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva.

***

Temple timings and rituals schedules:

The Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple follows a strict schedule of daily poojas and rituals. The temple is open every day with standard darshan hours split into morning and evening windows. [1]

Daily Darshan Windows

-
- Morning Hours: 4:30 AM to 11:30 AM
- Evening Hours: 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM
- *Note: Timings often extend during festival periods, especially during the 10-day Onam celebration.* [1, 2, 3]
-

Daily Pooja Schedule

The daily ritual cycle consists of precise milestone ceremonies: [4]

Time	Ritual / Pooja	Description
4:30 AM	***Palliunarthal***	**Awakening ceremony of the deity.**
5:00 AM	***Nada Thurakkal***	**Opening of the sanctum gates for devotees.**
6:00 AM	***Usha Pooja***	**The early morning main pooja.**
6:30 AM	***Ethirtha Seeveli***	**Ritualistic morning procession of the deity around the inner compound.**
8:00 AM	***Pantheeradi Pooja***	**Special mid-morning prayer session.**
11:00 AM	***Uchcha Pooja & Seeveli***	**Midday pooja followed by the afternoon deity procession.**
11:30 AM	**Nada Adaikkal**	**Temple Closes for the afternoon break.**

5:00 PM	**Nada Thurakkal**	**Temple Re-opens for the evening session.**
6:30 PM	***Deeparadhana***	**The sunset lamp-lighting ritual; highly crowded and spiritually vibrant.**
7:30 PM	***Athaazha Pooja***	**Night pooja and offering of the final daily food (*Nivedyam*).**
8:00 PM	***Athazha Seeveli***	**Final night procession of the deity.**
8:30 PM	**Nada Adaikkal**	**Temple Closes for the day.**

Recurring Monthly Rituals

-
- Thiruonam Star Day: Observed once every Malayalam month, featuring special *Tantric Poojas* and *Prasada Oottu* (free temple feast) for visiting devotees. [4]
- Ayilyam Star Day: Celebrated monthly with an exclusive *Ayilyam Pooja* dedicated to the serpent deities (*Nagas*) housed inside the temple complex. [4]
-

Essential Dress Code & Rules

-
- Men: Must wear a traditional Mundu/Dhoti. The upper body must remain bare (shirts and vests are not permitted inside the inner perimeter).
- Women: Must wear a Saree, Set-Mundu, or a modest long skirt with a blouse. Salwar kameez is generally discouraged by orthodox rules.
- Photography: Strictly forbidden inside the inner temple compound walls. [5, 6, 7]
-

[1] https://www.temples.bio
[2] https://vishnubalajitravels.com
[3] https://blog.yatradham.org
[4] https://www.hindu-blog.com
[5] https://www.google.com
[6] https://www.tripadvisor.in
[7] https://www.templepurohit.com

****

Ref: ClaudeAI

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple, Kerala

Here's a comprehensive profile of the temple, compiled from multiple sources.

Location

Thrikkakara Vamanamoorthy Temple, Pukkattupady Road, Vidya Nagar Colony, Thrikkakara, Edappally, Kochi, Ernakulam District, Kerala – 682021. It sits around 10 km northeast of Kochi city centre, between the Thrissur and Ernakulam highway, (YatraDham) and is about 3.5 km from Edappally. (Temple Purohit)

How to Get There

By Air: Cochin International Airport is about 20.8 km away, (Indianpanorama) with taxis/cabs available.
By Train: Ernakulam Junction is the nearest major railway station, about 12.8 km away; (Indianpanorama) autos and buses connect from there.
By Road: Buses, auto-rickshaws, and taxis are available almost all the time to reach the temple, (Temple Purohit) with regular bus services on the Kochi–Aluva road.

Speciality

It is one of the 108 Divya Desams (sacred Vishnu shrines) and the only temple in Kerala dedicated to Lord Vamana. (Kerala Tourism) Thrikkakara is considered the epicentre of Onam celebrations (Kerala Tourism) — the festival is believed to have originated here.

History & Legends

Thrikkakara is believed to have been the capital of King Mahabali's kingdom, and the temple is thought to stand on the exact spot from where Vamana sent Mahabali to the netherworld. (Kerala Tourism) Per the Bhagavata Purana, Vishnu descended as Vamana to restore Indra's authority after it was taken by Mahabali. (Temple Purohit) Disguised as a Brahmin boy, Vamana asked generous King Mahabali for three paces of land; Mahabali agreed despite his guru's warning. Vamana then revealed his true form and grew to cosmic size, striding over the three worlds — earth, sky, and netherworld — with two steps, (Temple Purohit) and Mahabali offered his own head for the third step, so Vamana granted him immortality for his humility. (Temple Purohit) Traditionally, Mahabali is believed to return each year on Thiruvonam to visit his people, which is celebrated as Onam. (YatraDham) The temple is known for inscriptions dated from the 10th to 13th centuries, (Kerala Tourism) and it has about 18 stone inscriptions from this period; the name "Thrikkakara" comes from "Thrikkalkkara," meaning "Place of the Sacred Feet." (YatraDham)

Architecture

Built in traditional Dravidian/Kerala-style architecture. (Wikipedia) The complex spans about 10 acres and contains two temples — one for Vamanamoorthy and another dedicated to Lord Shiva, with a statue of Mahabali also housed here. (Kerala Tourism) The sanctum walls carry exquisite engravings depicting traditional Onam celebrations. (Kerala Tourism) Thousands of lamps ("Chuttuvilakku") surround the inner complex walls. (Wikipedia)

Main Deity & Sub-Deities

Main deity: Maha Vishnu in the form of Vamana, depicted preparing to place his foot on King Mahabali. (Temple Purohit)

Sub-deities: Bhagavati, Sasthavu, Gopalakrishna, Naga, Brahmarakshasa, and Yakshi, with a separate Brahmarakshasa shrine, a banyan-tree deity, and a Sarpa Kavu (snake grove) in the outer complex. (Wikipedia) Other sources also mention Lord Shiva, Ganesha, and Karthikeya (Temple Purohit) among the deities present.

Daily Rituals & Timings

Ritual	Time
Nada Thurakkal (temple opens)	5:00 AM
Usha Pooja	6:00 AM
Ethirtha/Ethrithu Seeveli	7:00 AM
Pantheeradi Pooja	8:00 AM
Uchcha Seeveli	11:00 AM
Closes (midday)	11:30 AM
Re-opens	5:00 PM
Deeparadhana	6:30 PM
Athaazha Pooja	7:30 PM
Seeveli Pooja	8:00 PM
Closes for the day	8:30 PM

(Source: temple's own listed schedule) Holyprasadam

Pooja/offering charges: I couldn't find a reliable, current official rate card for individual vazhipadus. Since the temple is run by the Travancore Devaswom Board, charges follow TDB's periodically revised tariff — please confirm exact rates at the temple office or the TDB office (EPABX: 0471-2317983 / 2316963 / 2310921) before your visit, as these change from time to time.

Special Poojas & Rituals

Tantri Pooja, Prasadam Oottu (held on Thiruvonam day of every Malayalam month), and Aayilyam Pooja. (YatraDham) Common offerings include Nivedyam and plantain offerings. (YatraDham)

Festivals

Onam/Thiruvonamahotsavam — the big one. Celebrations begin at the temple and continue for 10 days, featuring a grand community Onasadhya, "Charthu" (deity decoration), processions called Pakalpooram and Seeveli, and cultural performances. (Kerala Tourism) Historically organised jointly by 61 Naduvazhis (local chieftains) under the Travancore Maharaja's leadership, with people of all faiths participating. (YatraDham)
Other festivals: Vishu, Makara Sankranti, Navratri, and Saraswati Puja. (YatraDham)

Facilities for Devotees

The temple complex has an auditorium used for the Onam feast as well as meetings and weddings. (My Holiday Happiness) Dedicated on-site pilgrim lodging isn't well documented — nearby Kochi/Edappally offers plentiful hotel options instead (see below).

Do's and Don'ts

- Dress modestly; men are required to remove their shirts before entering the inner sanctum. (Indianpanorama)
- Expect large crowds if visiting during the Onam festival period (August/September) — plan accordingly.
- Standard Kerala temple etiquette applies: remove footwear before entering, avoid leather items inside, and maintain silence/decorum near the sanctum.

Nearby Temples

- Sree Poornathrayeesa Temple, Tripunithura
- Adi Shankaracharya Temple, Kalady (birthplace of Adi Shankara)
- Chottanikkara Devi Temple
- Ernakulam Shiva Temple

Nearby Hotels

Edappally and Kakkanad (both very close) have a wide range of options — from budget stays to business hotels like Ramada, Fortune, Grand Hyatt Kochi Bolgatty (further away), and numerous 2–3 star hotels along the NH bypass and Kakkanad IT corridor.

Nearby Tourist Spots

Lulu Mall, Edappally (major shopping/entertainment hub)
Kakkanad IT hub / Infopark

Fort Kochi, Mattancherry, Jew Town (Kochi's heritage quarter, ~15–20 km)
Marine Drive, Kochi
Bolgatty Palace & Island

Donation Info & Contact

As it's a **Travancore Devaswom Board** temple, donations and vazhipadu bookings go through the TDB system.
TDB Head Office: Nanthancode, Kawdiar Post, Thiruvananthapuram – 695003. EPABX: 0471-2317983, 2316963, 2310921, 2723240; Fax: 0471-2310192 (Travancore Devaswom Board)
Online pooja booking is available for major TDB temples via onlinetdb.com
Kerala Tourism info line: +91 471 2321132 (Kerala Tourism)

I'd recommend calling the TDB office or checking onlinetdb.com directly to confirm current pooja charges and whether online booking is enabled for this specific temple, since I couldn't verify an exact, current price list from available sources.

****

Ref: PerplexityAI

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple, Kerala

Location

- **Address:** Edappally–Pukkattupady Road, Vidya Nagar Colony, Thrikkakara, Edappally, Kochi, Kerala 682021. [1][2]
- **Area:** Thrikkakara (a suburb of Kochi/Ernakulam), on the Thrissur–Ernakulam highway corridor, close to Cochin University Road. [3][4]
- **Coordinates:** 10°02′08″N 76°19′46″E. [5]

How to get there

- **By Air:** Cochin International Airport (Nedumbassery), about 15–21 km away; taxis/app cabs available. [1][3]
- **By Train:** Ernakulam Junction (South/North) ~9–13 km; Aluva (Alwaye) ~9 km. Auto-rickshaws, buses, and cabs connect to Thrikkakara. [1][2][3]
- **By Road:** Well connected via NH 47 and the Thrissur–Ernakulam highway; ample parking is available near the temple. [6][3]

Speciality of this temple

- One of the **108 Divya Desams** (holy abodes of Vishnu revered by the Alwars). [5][3]
- **Rare major temple dedicated to Lord Vamana** (the fifth avatar of Vishnu) as the main deity. [3][7]
- Regarded as the **spiritual origin of Onam**: Thrikkakara is believed to be the place where Vamana placed his foot on Mahabali, giving the name “Thiru-kaal-kara” (place of the holy foot). [5][3]
- Hosts one of Kerala’s **largest Onam sadyas** (feast), drawing tens of thousands across communities. [5]

History and legends

- The temple is **around two millennia old** and is under the **Travancore Devaswom Board**. [5]
- The temple records contain an **early mention of Onam celebrations dating to 861 CE**. [5]
- ****Legend (Bhagavata Purana):**** Vishnu as Vamana, a dwarf Brahmin, asked King Mahabali for “three paces of land.” With two steps he covered heaven and earth; for the third, Mahabali offered his head. Vamana granted Mahabali immortality and rule of the netherworld; this event is central to Onam. [5]
- ****Local legend**:** A plantain garden began yielding “golden plantains” after a donation to the temple; this led to a king’s suspicion, a sage’s curse, and later redemption rituals connected to the temple. [5]

Architecture

- A **large enclosed complex** with the main Vamana sanctum at the centre. [5]
- **Chuttuvilakku:** thousands of lamps lining the inner complex walls, a characteristic Kerala temple feature. [5]
- **Temple tanks:**
  - **Kapilatheertham** (north side, near sanctum; restricted to priests).
  - Another pond outside the northern wall used for **Aaraattu** (ritual bath) during Onam. [5]
- **Sub-shrines and halls:** Shrines for Bhagavati, Sasthavu (Ayyappa), Gopalakrishna, Naga, Brahmarakshasa, Yakshi; an outer Sarpa Kavu and an Aal-devata (banyan-tree deity). Three performance halls (**Naimishaaranyam**) and a temple auditorium for cultural events and sadya. [5]
- A **Shiva temple** stands beside the main Vamana shrine (renovated in 2014), with deities Shiva, Ganesha, Karthikeya, and Durga. [5]

Main deity and sub-deities

- **Main deity:** **Lord Vamana (Katkaryaappan)**, depicted in the act of placing his foot on Mahabali. [5][6]
- **Sub-deities:** Bhagavati, Sasthavu (Ayyappa), Gopalakrishna, Naga (serpent), Brahmarakshasa, Yakshi; plus Sarpa Kavu and Aal-devata in the outer complex. [5]
- Adjacent **Shiva shrine** with Ganesha, Karthikeya, and Durga. [5]

Daily rituals and poojas (and typical charges)

- **Darshan timings (general):** Commonly **4:00/4:30 AM–11:00/11:30 AM** and **5:00 PM–8:00/8:30 PM**; the temple closes mid-day. [2][4]
- **Daily poojas** follow the standard Kerala Vishnu temple sequence (e.g., Usha/Nirmalya, Ethirettu, Ucha, Deeparadhana), but exact names/times can vary by day and season. For precise daily schedules, check with the temple office or notice boards. [2]
- **Charges**: There is **no mandatory entry fee** for general darshan. Specific **vazhipadu (offerings)** and special rituals have separate charges; donations for maintenance are voluntary. [3]
  - For exact current rates (which can change), contact the temple directly at the numbers below.

Special poojas and their charges

- **Common special offerings in such temples include** **Archana, Abhishekam, Vilakku (lamp) offerings, Annadanam sponsorship**, and **Onam-period special poojas**.
- **Charges**: Not uniformly published online; the temple office provides the latest rate list for each vazhipadu. [3]
- **Contact for pooja/charges info:**
  - **+91-484-2367334** (Kerala Tourism listing) [1]
  - **+91-484-2426570** (OneIndia listing) [2]
  - You can also visit the temple office in person for the current “vazhipadu” rate sheet.

Festivals celebrated

- **Thiruvonamahotsavam (Onam festival):** The **main annual festival**, celebrated over **10 days** in the Malayalam month of **Chingam** (Aug–Sep). Highlights include: [5][1]
  - **Kodiyettu** (flag hoisting) on Atham; flag lowering and **Aaraattu** on the final day. [5]
  - **Chaarthu:** Daily decoration of the Vamana idol as each of Vishnu’s ten avatars. [5]
  - **Pakalpooram** (9th day) and **Seeveli** (final day) processions with caparisoned elephants and Panchavadyam. [5]
  - Grand **Onam Sadya** on the last two days, attended by 20,000+ people. [5]
  - Cultural programs: **Chakyar Koothu, Ottamthullal, Kathakali, Patakam, Panchavadyam, Thayambaka**, etc. [5]
- **Other festivals**: **Vishu, Makara Sankranti, Navaratri, Saraswati Puja** are also observed. [5]

Facilities for devotees (accommodation, etc.)

- **Accommodation**: The temple complex is in a residential suburb; numerous **hotels, homestays, and serviced apartments** are available within 2–5 km (Edappally, Pukkattupady, Kalamassery, Aluva). [3]
- **Parking**: Ample parking space is reported near the temple. [6]
- **Auditorium/halls**: Temple auditorium and performance halls are used for weddings, meetings, and the Onam feast. [5]
- **Food**: During festivals, large-scale sadya is organized; regular days may have small prasadam counters—check locally for daily availability.

Do’s and don’ts

- **Do**:**
  - Dress modestly; men traditionally remove shirts before entering the sanctum area. [6][8]
  - Follow queue systems and temple announcements during peak days (especially Onam).
  - Keep the premises clean; use designated areas for footwear.
- **Don’t**:**
  - Avoid non-vegetarian food, alcohol, and smoking within the temple vicinity.
  - Do not enter restricted areas (e.g., Kapilatheertham tank is for priests). [5]
  - Avoid loud conversations or photography where prohibited.

Nearby temples

- **Shiva temple** within the same complex (renovated 2014). [5]
- Other prominent Vishnu/Shiva temples in greater Kochi/Ernakulam (e.g., **Ernakulam Shiva Temple**, **Chottanikkara Bhagavati**, **Guruvayur** a bit farther) are accessible by road; for a curated list with distances, local tourist maps or the temple office can guide you.

Nearby hotels

- **Edappally, Pukkattupady, Kalamassery, Aluva** belts have many options from budget to mid-range and some upscale properties. [3]
- For exact names and distances, use map apps with “hotels near Thrikkakara Temple” or ask the temple office for devotee-friendly stays.

Nearby tourist spots

- **Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT)** campus area (the temple is on/near Cochin University Road). [6]
- **Kochi city attractions:** Fort Kochi, Mattancherry (Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace), Marine Drive, Lulu Mall (Edappally), Wonderla (Chittarikkal), and backwater tours are all within reasonable driving distance. [3]

Donation info and contact phone number

- **Donations**:** Voluntary contributions for temple maintenance and festivals are accepted; specific seva/annadanam sponsorships can be arranged via the office. [3]
- **Contact numbers**:**
  - **+91-484-2367334** [1]
  - **+91-484-2426570** [2]
- **For bank details, online donation links, or receipted donations, contact the **Travancore Devaswom Board** or the temple office directly.**

Any other info

- **Etymology**:** “Thrikkakara” = “Thiru-kaal-kara” (place of the holy foot), tied to the Vamana–Mahabali legend and Onam. [5]

- **Cultural significance**:** The temple is a key reference point for Onam narratives across Kerala; the **Thrikkakara-appan** (Maveli–Vamana idol) is installed widely during Onam as a symbol of the festival. [5]
- **Administration**:** Managed by the **Travancore Devaswom Board**, which also oversees many major Kerala temples. [5]

*****

Videos

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple (1.25 min):

https://youtu.be/lkBKzoCqizI?si=ATP66q-yNCsXZEAk

Thrikkakara…birthplace of Vamana Avatara (3 min):

https://youtu.be/HUVzFm9VKTQ?si=7hBTuyL9KiwEf-R5

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple (6 min):

https://youtu.be/2oICA4HAnZI?si=HliXyUKelyVkhOpU

Devotees perform rituals at Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple…FaceBook (0.49 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1BgXzA4xi1/

Thrikkakara Vamana Moorthy Temple..Onam celebrations (4 min):

https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18YjtPZiJh/

****

Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included (see below), giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

***

About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

Where to Download all my free ebooks (Engineering + Spiritual):

All my ebooks on Engineering (Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, Cryogenic Engineering), Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics are available for free download from Archive.org.

Master Link (All Books):

https://archive.org/search?query=creator%3A%22Dr.%20M.%20Thirumaleshwar%22

Scan the QR code to access all free ebooks:

QR code to access all my free ebooks

All books are free to download and share for educational and spiritual purposes.

***

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
August 27, 2026

******